federal register

Wednesday
May 20, 1981

Part II

Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Human Development Services

Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Special Project Grant Program; Projects of National Significance in Developmental Disabilities

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Human Development Services

[Program Announcement No. 13631.811]

Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Special Project Grant Program, Projects of National Significance in Developmental Disabilities

AGENCY: Office of Human Development Services, HHS.

SUBJECT: Announcement of Availability of Grant Funds for Projects of National Significance in Developmental Disabilities Under the Special Project Grants Program.

SUMMARY: The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) announces that applications will be accepted for grants under the Special Project Grants Program, Projects of National Significance authorized by Title I, Section 145 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, Pub. L. 95-602, (42 U.S.C. 6001). Regulations applicable to this program include the Administration on Developmental Disabilities general regulations (45 CFR Part 1385) and the regulations governing Discretionary Grant Programs, (45 CFR Part 1387).

DATE: Closing date for receipt of applications is July 20, 1981.

Scope of This Announcement

This program announcement covers only projects of national significance authorized under the Special Project Grants Program of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, Pub. L. 95-602.

Program Purpose

The Special Project Grants Program authorizes the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to award grants for a variety of purposes, among which are:

1. to demonstrate how to establish programs which will expand or improve services to developmentally disabled persons
2. to increase public awareness and public education programs
3. to demonstrate services for economically disadvantaged developmentally disabled persons
4. to gather and disseminate information

Projects of National Significance must be designed:

1. to have a direct impact on developmental disabilities programs throughout the country;
2. to have an objective(s), which if achieved, could be replicated, could result in an improved delivery system for developmental disabilities services; or could affect National policies and/or standards; or
3. to involve activities to be conducted in a number of sites in various parts of the country as part of a unified program.

Program Objectives and Project Information

The objectives for the Special Project Grants Program, Projects of National Significance are:

1. to strengthen and assist the State Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy Agencies;
2. to assist the State Development Disabilities Councils and other agencies to further their deinstitutionalization planning and implementation;
3. to strengthen the National network of Developmental Disabilities University Affiliated Programs and related agencies; and
4. to improve the quality of deinstitutionalization efforts.

In order to achieve these objectives, the ADD will award grants in the following types of project areas:

Project Area #1: *Develop and Implement a Model Demonstration Training and Staff Development Program to Assist Employees in the Transition from State Residential Facilities to Community Programs*

A major concern of employees working in State residential facilities is that of continued employment when clients are deinstitutionalized and/or placed in community-based programs. Oftentime facility-based caregivers do not possess the necessary skills and background competencies to work in the community. The primary purpose of this project is to upgrade the skills and competencies of caregivers (i.e.: outreach workers, case managers, and direct service personnel). This project will focus on training and retraining activities that are specifically designed to facilitate employees' transition from State residential facilities to community-based programs.

It is estimated that two (2) grants for approximately $150,000 to $225,000 will be awarded for one year.

Special Considerations for Funding—Special consideration will be given to applicants with a demonstrated commitment to community-based programs and negotiated agreement(s) with organization representing Developmental Disabilities (DD) direct service workers that assures that the interests of employees will be protected.

Project Area #2: *To Increase the Number and Quality of Minority Professsionals in the Development Disabilities Service System by Soliciting the Participation of Historically and Predominantly Black Colleges*

This project will demonstrate ways of maximizing desperately needed person power resources by tapping heretofore under-utilized skills and talents of Historically and Predominantly Black educational institutions. The focal points to be examines include: innovative ways of providing specialized training, career development, and the dissemination of program information, techniques and skills related to the provision of services for persons who are developmentally disabled. The primary goal of this project will be to encourage Black and minority students to choose careers within the developmental disabilities service system.

It is anticipated that one (1) grant for approximately $150,000 will be awarded for fifteen (15) months to a Historically or Predominantly Black College or University.

Project Area #3: *A Model Demonstration Program in the Provision of Services to Long Term Care Developmentally Disabled Individuals in Community Residences*

This project will demonstrate how to develop and implement model programs designed to assist States to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of meeting the differential needs of persons with developmental disabilities requiring long term care in community settings. Attention will be devoted to those persons who are no longer eligible for participation in day activity programs. It will identify the kinds of service models that will best serve the developmentally disabled population. Most program services provisions are skewed toward institutional as opposed to community-based care. Thus, this project will provide support for: demonstrating system changes and innovative methods for developing and providing residential and basic supportive personal care services at the community level; emergency and respite services to families in informal support systems; and the ability to monitor the suitability of placements for persons with developmental disabilities.

It is anticipated that one (1) grant for approximately $200,000 to $250,000 will be awarded for fifteen months.

Project Area #4: *A Model Demonstration Program that will Assist States Improve the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Providing Services to Hearing Impaired Developmentally Disabled (HIDD) Persons*

This project is a follow-up to a three year project of national significance that was awarded to the University of Arizona at Tucson which crystallized the needs of HIDD persons and identified the widespread lack of understanding and expertise in the area of education, habilitation, and rehabilitation programs. This model demonstration project will assist States to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services to HIDD persons by:

1. Developing an action program to create national awareness among special education programs for the deaf at the State level of techniques and methodology currently available as a result of the Arizona Project and from other Developmental disabilities programs, including the UAF system;

2. Undertaking a similar awareness program directed toward university and college programs currently engaged in the preparation of teachers of deaf children;

3. Developing an information exchange system, including seminars between major national centers on deafness, such as Gallaudet College, and the UAF network, which will result in a two way flow of technical expertise between the two fields of specialization; and

4. Developing and managing a program of direct technical assistance to major programs for deaf children at state levels, including information dissemination as well as actual in-service type training seminars and/or workshops.

It is anticipated that one (1) grant for approximately $150,000 will be awarded for one (1) year.

Project Area #5: Develop Model Demonstrations of Protection and Advocacy with Institutionalized Developmentally Disabled Persons

A significant number of severely handicapped persons with DD are institutionalized without apparent ties or support from their families or their original communities. These persons are not cognizant of their rights and, in some cases, their environments militate against advocacy efforts on their behalf. These model projects will demonstrate strategies for achieving the following objectives:

- establishing external mechanisms and stimulating internal mechanisms for monitoring client welfare and habilitation;
- involving advocates in developing effective programs for institutionalized developmentally disabled persons;
- involving advocates in returning institutionalized DD persons to the community; and
- organizing and monitoring the provision of support services to appropriate community programs in order to prevent or minimize recidivism.

It is anticipated that three (3) grants for approximately $100,000 each will be awarded for (1) year to Protection and Advocacy Systems.

Project Area #6: *Determine to What Extent Economic, Social and Psychological Barriers Impact Upon Developmentally Disabled Family Units and Develop a Model for Alleviating Their Negative Effects*

Spiraling and inflationary medical costs plus the trend of placing more clients in community settings and/or at home has impacted negatively upon family life styles. Families that have attempted to keep a developmentally disabled child or adult at home have experienced a high degree of frustration. In many cases, their frustrations have resulted in disunity of the family structure.

The purpose of this project is to assist States by developing and demonstrating strategies for preserving families and promoting family stability.

This project will:

1. examine the impact of economic, social and psychological factors on developmentally disabled family units; and

2. identify/demonstrate ways of coping with the negative effects or problems associated with increased medical costs and barriers to services.

It is anticipated that one (1) grant for approximately $100,000 will be awarded for one year.

Project Area #7: *A Model Demonstration Project That Will Assess the Incidence, Degree of Severity and Service Needs of Developmentally Disabled Persons Pursuant to the New Functional Definition*

The shift from a categorical to a functional definition of developmental disabilities resulted in an increase in the types of disabilities eligible for services. Approximately 3.9 million developmentally disabled persons are now eligible for services and new handicapping conditions have been identified that must be addressed by the Developmental Disabilities program.

This project will assist States to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services by demonstrating effective ways of identifying and delivering services to those persons who are now eligible for services as a result of the new functional definition.

An objective of this project will be to establish inter- or intra-agency agreements with agencies that are conducting needs assessments, screening activities, and providing information and referral services, to identify the new handicapping conditions and refer such DD persons to appropriate agencies for services.

It is anticipated that one (1) grant for approximately $100,000 will be funded for fifteen (15) months.

Eligible Applicants

Applications may be made by public or private non-profit agencies, organizations, and institutions. State(s) *without* an approved Developmental Disabilities State plan may not apply for a project of national significance under this grant announcement.

Available Funds

Of the amount available for this program, the ADD expects to award approximately $1.5 million in fiscal year 1981 for new grant awards under this announcement. (A new grant is the initial award made in support of a project for this program). It is expected that approximately ten grants will be awarded ranging from $100,000 to $250,000 each. Projects will be supported for a period of one (1) year to fifteen (15) months.

Applicants will compete for awards within priority areas for which the application has been submitted. However, the Commissioner may determine not to fund an application in any given priority area.

Grantee Share of Project

Grantees will be required to provide at least ten (10) percent of the total project costs. The non-Federal share of projects may be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. Please refer to HHS regulation 45 CFR Part 74, Administration of grants (see 38 FR 26274, September 19, 1973) which is included in the application kit.

The Application Process

Availability of Application Forms—In order to be considered for a grant under the Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance program, all applications must be submitted on standard forms provided for this purpose and in accordance with established guidelines.

Please specify by *project area* and *title* which project(s) are contemplated so that more detailed information may be forwarded.

Application kits containing the prescribed application forms, project

descriptions, and other related information may be obtained by contacting:

Division of Management Service, Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Office of Human Development Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Room 3166H, North Building, 330 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20201, Attn: 13631.811 Telephone: (202) 472-7227.

Application Submission—One signed original and two copies of the grant application, including all attachments must be submitted to the address specified in the application kit.

In addition, concurrently, one (1) copy of the application should be submitted to the applicant's State Planning Council and one (1) copy to the appropriate DHHS Regional Office for review and comment. (Addresses for the DHHS Regional Offices are included in the application kit). The application must be signed by an individual authorized to act for the applicant agency and to assume for the agency the obligations imposed by the terms and conditions of the grant award including the regulations for the Special Project Grants Program—Projects of National Significance.

A-95 Notification Process—Projects of National Significance are exempt from the A-95 Clearinghouse requirements.

Application Consideration—The Commissioner determines the final action to be taken with respect to each grant application.

Applications received by the closing date which are completed and conform to the requirements of this program announcement are subject to a competitive review and evaluation conducted by a panel of experts in the specific area being addressed or closely related program areas.

The Commissioner's decision takes into account the recommendation resulting from the competitive review by the panel members, the comments by the State Planning Council, and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities' Regional Program Directors, as well as any other persons qualified to give advice.

The Commissioner makes grant awards consistent with the purposes of the DD Act, the Regulations, and program announcements within the limits of Federal funds available. After the Commissioner has reached a decision either to disapprove or not to fund a competing grant application, unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing of that decision. Successful applicants are notified through the issuance of a Notice of Financial Assistance Awarded which sets forth in writing the amount of funds granted, the purpose of the grant, the terms and conditions of the grant award, the effective date of the award, the budget period for which support is given and the total grantee participation. The initial award, when applicable, also specifies the project period for which support is contemplated.

Criteria for Review and Evaluation of Applications

Competing grant applications will be reviewed and evaluated against the following criteria:

1. *Quality of the Application* (20 points)

The description of the purposes and objectives of the grant activities, the major tasks to be accomplished, and difficulties likely to be encountered are clearly stated and show that the applicant has a thorough understanding of the Developmental Disabilities program and the particular project area of the Developmental Disabilities program the project addresses.

2. *Technical Approach and Methodology* (30 points)

The proposed procedures and methodology for the project should be of high quality and technically sound. The methodology should be consistent with the applicant's stated purposes and objectives and show how the anticipated results of the project will be orderly and systematically achieved. Timetables for completion of the project should be definitive and realistic. Applicants should also include a discussion of how the procedures and results of the project will be evaluated.

3. *Applicant Qualifications* (30 points)

Qualifications and professional experience of staff should be appropriate and adequate to fulfill their proposed roles and functions. The facilities and resources available to the project should be adequate for fulfilling the objectives of the project. Applications should be accompanied by letters of support from agencies and organizations whose interests and/or responsibilities are relevant to the purpose of the proposed project.

4. *Relevance of Project Objectives to Program Goals* (10 points)

The objectives of the project should be clearly delineated. The discussion of the objectives should articulate the relevance of the project objectives to the objectives of the Special Project Grants Program—Projects of National Significance, and how the results of the proposed project will contribute to the achievement of those objectives.

5. *Budget* (10 points)

The proposed budget should be realistic, reasonable, and justifiable in terms of the project activities. If project costs are not within the range described in the program announcement, sufficient explanation should be provided to justify the discrepancies. Applications should include discussions of the feasibility and propriety of continuing the project after Federal funding ends, and plans for securing financial support, if appropriate.

The closing date for receipt of applications under this program announcement is (60 days from date of publication).

Applications may be mailed or hand delivered to the receiving office. Hand delivered applications will be accepted during the work hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. An application will be considered to have arrived by the closing date if:

1. it was sent by registered or certified mail no later than (60 days from date of publication), as evidenced by the U.S. Postal Service;

2. it is sent by mail and received on or before the closing date in the Department of Health and Human Services or the Office of Human Development Services mail rooms as evidenced by the time date stamp or other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by such mail rooms; or

3. it is hand delivered to the office designated to receive the application in the application instructions. Hand delivered applications will be accepted no later than the close of business July 20, 1981, in any case.

Late Applications

Late applications will not be accepted and applicants will be notified accordingly.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number: 13.631 Special Project Grants, DD)

Dated: May 8, 1981.

Francis X. Lynch,

Acting Commissioner on Developmental Disabilities.

Approved: May 14, 1981.

Dorcas R. Hardy,

Assistant Secretary for Human Develpment Services.

[FR Doc. 81-15027 Filed 5-19-81; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4110-92-M